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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-3 and 6-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 5 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (previously presented) A surgical instrument for treating female urinary stress incontinence comprising:

- a) a sling contoured to the anatomical configuration of the mid-urethra, proximal urethra, and base of the bladder for implanting into the lower abdomen of a female; the sling providing support to mid-urethral and bladder neck sphincteric continence sites as well as support for the base of the bladder, said sling defining in part a tissue remodeling portion fixedly attached to and surrounding a mesh section; and
- b) a sling transfer instrument having a distal end and a proximal end, said instrument defining in part a progressively curved shaft portion positioned between distal and proximal ends with an attached insertion handle located at its proximal end, and a means for attaching said sling to the distal end of said shaft;

wherein the mesh section is comprised of absorbable polymers, and filaments of the mesh section have a diameter of approximately .012 inch to 0.1 inch.

Claim 5 (currently amended) ~~The surgical instrument of claim 1~~ A surgical instrument for treating female urinary stress incontinence comprising:

- a) a sling contoured to the anatomical configuration of the mid-urethra, proximal urethra, and base of the bladder for implanting into the lower abdomen of a female; the sling providing support to mid-urethral and bladder neck sphincteric continence sites as well as support for the base of the bladder, said sling defining in